

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview of August 27, 2007, with respect to the parent (*i.e.*, Serial No. 09/621,830, filed July 24, 2000), of the above-referenced application. In the interview, the Examiner gave Applicant permission to add new independent claim 58. New claims 58-68 are similar to claims 18, 20, 22-23, 48, 52, 54, 58, 63-66, and 70 of the parent application. The Examiner indicated that claim 18 of the parent application is allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant thanks Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1, 2, 16-24, 44, 48, 50, 54, and 55, and for the suggested amendments for rejected Claims 26, 29, 51, 52, and 53.

Examiner rejected Claims 26-37, 40-42, 49, 51-53, 56, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the claimed subject matter of Applicant's invention. Applicant amended Claims 26, 51, 29, 52, and 53 to correct the indefiniteness.

Claim 26 was amended, as Examiner suggested, to include "the flock having first ends and opposing second ends;" Claim 26 now reads in clean form:

26. A flocked transfer comprising:
a release sheet;
a release agent on the release sheet;
flock on the release agent; the flock having first ends and opposing second ends; the flock being formed in a desired pattern on the release sheet; the release agent being located between the flock and release sheet and holding the first ends of the flock to the release sheet, and
a pre-formed, solid, and self-supporting thermoplastic hot melt sheet engaging free ends of the flock, the flock being located between the release agent and the thermoplastic hot melt sheet, wherein at least most of the second ends of the flock are in direct physical contact with the thermoplastic hot melt sheet; and
wherein the thermoplastic hot melt sheet has a substantially uniform thickness and substantially flat upper and lower surfaces and wherein the flock fibers are substantially perpendicular to the upper and lower surfaces and to the release sheet.

Applicant amended dependent Claims 29 and 52 to include the limitations of independent Claim 26; Claims 29 and 52 now read in clean form:

29. The flocked transfer of Claim 26, wherein the flock comprises a plurality of flock fibers, wherein the release agent and release sheet are located on the first ends of the flock.

52. The flocked transfer of Claim 26, wherein substantially all of the thermoplastic sheet contacts the second ends of the flock.

Applicant also amended dependent Claim 51 and independent Claim 53 to correct indefiniteness, Claims 51 and 53 are presented in clean form below:

51. The flocked transfer of Claim 16, wherein substantially all of the thermoplastic hot melt sheet contacts the second surface of the flock.

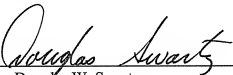
53. A flocked article comprising:
a release sheet;
a release agent on the release sheet;
flock adhered to the release agent; the flock having first ends and opposing second ends; the flock being formed in a desired pattern on the release sheet, the release agent holding the first ends of the flock to the release sheet;
a pre-formed, solid, and self-supporting thermoplastic hot melt sheet having a length and a width, and a first side engaging the second ends of the flock;
a substrate adhered to a second side of said thermoplastic hot melt sheet;
wherein at least substantially most of the second ends of the flock are adhered to the thermoplastic hot melt sheet;
and wherein there is no binder adhesive positioned between the flock and the substrate.

Claims 27-37, 40-42, 49, 56, and 57 rejected for their dependency upon Claim 26 and 53 are now allowable.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: 
Douglas W. Swartz
Registration No. 37,739
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141
(303) 863-9700

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